Critical Care Transfers – requesting an ambulance

1. When booking an ambulance for **Critical** or **Immediate** transfers, confirm the following with the Ambulance control (LAS Emergency Operations Centre)

   0203 162 7511

2. **Request either Hospital Transfer 1** (within 18 min) or **Hospital Transfer 2** (within 1 hour) transfer – see LAS categories on the flow chart

3. **Confirm destination** – Hospital and location within e.g. ICU, theatre, ED.

4. **Confirm who is escorting the patient and how many?**

5. **Confirm ETA of ambulance** – Is the patient ready?

6. **Confirm patient dependencies and specific requirements** – see Box 1.

**Box 1 - Patient dependency**

- **Portable oxygen** – Do you want the LAS crew to bring any cylinders with the trolley to your department? If so you need to request this with Ambulance control.

- **Additional monitoring / defibrillator** – Do you want the LAS crew to bring their monitor or defibrillator with the trolley to your department? If so you need to request this with Ambulance control.

- **Power requirements** – If you are travelling some distance or are concerned about power for your critical care equipment, you can ask for an ambulance with 3 pin sockets available or an inverter. (This should only be as back up. Escorting transfer team should be self-sufficient wherever possible.) If you need this capability request this with Ambulance control when booking the transfer.

- **Intra-Aortic Balloon Pump?** – Does your patient have an IABP in situ? You need to inform ambulance control as this equipment requires a specific ambulance and the Q-straint for securing the IABP.

- **Bariatric Patients** – There are larger trolleys and designated vehicles for patients who may need specific bariatric capability. If you need this capability request this with Ambulance control when booking.

**Other considerations**

7. **Return of transfer team** - The ambulance will not bring the team back so arrangements for a hospital taxi should be in place.

8. **Documentation** – Complete the contact times, ETA of ambulance and reference number in **box 3** on the North West London Critical Care Network transfer form.

It is best practice for the transfer team to be self-sufficient when it comes to critical care transfers. Staff and equipment should have the capability to manage the patient safely throughout the transfer.

This advice is compiled from information provided by LAS on the North West London transfer training course, feedback from staff undertaking transfers and completed network transfer forms.